

LOUISVILLE JOURNAL

THE LIGHT-DRAGHT MONITORS.—The light-draught monitors, says the Boston Traveler, were originally designed for harbor defence, or service on the inland waters and shallow streams of the rebel States, but have progressed in construction, may indicate alterations were made in them, which enhanced their buoyancy. The calculations were based upon the ordinary weight of the materials to be used, but the kind of materials required could not be obtained. For example, the average weight of this oak season is fifty-three pounds, and pine about thirty-five pounds of the cubic foot; whereas the actual weight of that used was sixty-three pounds for oak and forty-six for pine.

The weight of iron was also in excess of the calculations. We mention these facts, not by way of an apology, but as an explanation. The object of the alterations was to obtain increased strength; but as the vessels were quite shallow in the center of the great organs, so that the largest organ may be played as easily as the piano, and the pipes may be distributed among the organists, it was necessary to allow space to be applied to a great organ in course of construction for the church of St. Augustus, in Paris.

A writer in the London Bullion says: I quite agree with those who trace the source of poison-smells in a house to the supposed traps of the waste-pipes. In fact, these traps very often leak, and the smell of the organ is so strong that the largest organ may be played as easily as the piano, and the pipes may be distributed among the organists, it was necessary to allow space to be applied to a great organ in course of construction for the church of St. Augustus, in Paris.

When it was ascertained that the Chimo, Cocco, and Tucio were too deeply immersed, the Navy Department immediately instituted an investigation into the cause, and remedied it for several changes in all the vessels of that class. They were ordered to be raised twenty-two inches. Nor is this the first change that has been made in our monitors, for experience obtained in conflict with the enemy has shown where improvements were necessary for their efficiency.

The monitor's hull is iron, and when she was raised a few pine beams were substituted for oak, her after-body was made firmer, the under-side of the overhang was also adapted to throw the water from the propeller, which is a decided improvement. Although the overhang is necessary, yet it impairs speed; but invulnerability and high speed cannot both be obtained in such a vessel. The overhang is designed to protect both the rudder and propeller from an enemy's shot; but experienced mechanics say that it might be modified without exposing her under water.

8 feet 225 feet long, 14 wide 11 feet, has 3 inches thickness of armor, backed by oak, deck-plating 1 inch, width of armor 3 feet, diameter of turret inside 20 feet, thickness 8 inches, and the turn will contain two heavy guns.

The alterations in the monitor were commenced by Messrs. McKey and Aldus on the 10th of September, 1861, and the vessel was successfully launched on the 31st of December.

They worked upon her most of the time day and night, determined that she should be the first monitor, and when they have succeeded. The obstacles they had to overcome were rather few and small. In the first place, the work which had been finished in the best style of mechanical art, had to be undone, which was a very slow and expensive process; the very best materials were required for the additions and alterations, which were difficult to procure at any price, especially so with metals, our money was not to be had, and still all had to be gained to their mind's capacity of production, and many of the mechanics employed, though paid the highest wages, were not of the best class, and required incessant watching to make them adhere to the plans furnished to them by the demand for skilled mechanics is very great at present, and will probably continue on until our ironclad navy is completed; for we are pleased to perceive that the Navy Department is determined to be prepared for our enemies in the Old World, should they prove wicked enough to interfere in behalf of the rebels.

When the monitor was launched, her mean draught of water was six feet four inches, and she was three feet four and a half inches out of water with her engine, boiler, and propeller all in their respective places. The deck-hatches are twenty inches above the water, when completed the deck of iron will be twenty feet above the water, the edge with deck-hatches, additional height for the deck-hatches. About 150 tons additional weight will be added to her by the time she is ready for sea; her displacement will then be about seven and a half feet, water, and her speed probably higher than the original estimate.

BY A GRIZZLY.—Mr. B. H. Baird, of Jackson county, Oregon, was killed by a grizzly bear while out deer-hunting on Grizzly Creek. The following particulars are from the Sentinel:

On the morning of the 27th of October, about sunrise, he started out with his gun and traps, his faithful dog Rover with him. He proceeded about one mile and a half, when his dog barked three grizzly bears in their bed. Mr. Baird, who was the largest one, who ran about two hundred yards, when he stopped the dog, and mounted the buck to keep on the bear's track, drew one of his hunter's knives, and stabbed the bear in the heart. The bear struck him several times, however, and when he had him at bay, Mr. B. then drew his second knife, when the bear struck his hand in which he held the knife. The bear now got "the better" of Mr. B. getting him down, biting him in the face, cutting several severe gashes on the left side, tearing out his eye, and biting the right side of his face. It bit several hard blows in his right side, in fact, it bit him nearly all over his body, down to his hocks. The bear now turned to the right, and when he had him at bay, he was killed on the spot. The bear and the dog then rolled down the hill for some distance, still fighting, when Mr. B. gathered up his gun, and shot it, and shot the bear the second time. The bear now came at him more furiously than before, and knocked the gun out of his hand. He then drew his knife, and the buck to keep on the bear's track, drew one of his hunter's knives, and stabbed the bear in the heart. The bear struck him several times, however, and when he had him at bay, Mr. B. then drew his second knife, when the bear struck his hand in which he held the knife.

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